
* INDIANA SINCLAIR-TIMEX NEWSLETTER *

May-June 1991

Editor - Frank Davis
Assist - M. Felerski
Publisher- Carol Davis

This issue....

Next meetings -- July, August and September
New Sinclair Publications -- IQR and ZXIR QLIVE ALIVE and
the QL Survivors Source Book
Dayton Computerfest- Sinclair Sub Show
Computerfest Ad
EMSoft Ad
ISTUG New Modem Adventures by Mike Felerski
DATABASE (is big brother watching you, or are you watching
him?) by Mike Felerski
Be a NETWORK MANAGER, excerpted from Network World

I.S.T.U.G. MEETING

The July meeting will be on July the 27th, 1:30 PM at the Eagledale Public Library. For those who need directions call Paul Holmgren at 317-291-6002 or Frank Davis at 317-473-8031. All meetings, unless notified otherwise are held the last Saturday of each month, at 1:30 P.M. at the Eagledale Public Library.

The August meeting will be the 24th at 1:30 PM at the ISTUG booth at the Dayton Computerfest. Check your show program you get as you enter the show to see where the Sinclair booths are. We will be looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. Come to the meeting and also help out at the booth for a couple of hours so the rest of us can have a break.

The September meeting will be on September 28 at 1:30 PM at the Eagledale Public Library. We will be hoping to have a demo of uploading TS1000 programs to the TS2068 and also hope to have Bill Angel bring his home brew IBM compatible system and show it off to the rest of us. Recall SPDOS? Wonder what that is? Then come and find out. It was used before on the Ramex disk drive systems for the TS2068 and is now available for use on the Oliger. We meant to demo it in June but ran out of time. So we shall try again.

NEW SINCLAIR PUBLICATIONS by Frank Davis

Here are some tidbits that should be of interest to all of you and I hope you will take the time and energy to check them out and give them your support.

The first is ZXIR QLIVE ALIVE, the Newsletter of T/SNUG, the group hoping to carry on from SNUG (perhaps merge SNUG into it). It is a quarterly newsletter supporting all Sinclair Computers. It is available for the price of membership, which is \$12 for individuals and \$15 for User Groups or Computer Clubs. It is available from Don Lambert at, 1301 Kiblinger Place, Auburn, IN 46706 and heavily supported by Bob Swoger of CATUG.

The second new publication on the scene comes from Seacoast Services, 15 Kilburn Court, Newport, RI 02840. It is called International QL Report, and truly does give one the needed information on what is available for the QL worldwide. I have received the first issue and the second is ready to be mailed. It will come out 4 to 6 times a year for the price of \$10.00. It was packed with info on how to order the products reviewed, new products, upgrades and information on who is working to try to further improve the QL. As I publish UPDATE Magazine (as well as edit this newsletter), I do not see this newsletter as a competitor, but as complements UPDATE and makes another source of data available to QL users. I have already subscribed.

The third new publication is the QL Survivors Source Book, which is a project of the Seacoast QL Users Group. It lists sources in the following four categories: all known QL HARDWARE SUPPLIERS, QL PUBLICATIONS (major), QL SOFTWARE SUPPLIERS, and QL USER GROUPS (or clubs for those who do not want to be called user groups) worldwide. Under each company/individual a number of their products (but not all) are listed.

The SOURCE BOOK is available in AUSTRALIA, GERMANY, ITALY and the UNITED KINGDOM. In NORTH AMERICA it is available from UPDATE MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 1095, Peru, In 46970. The cost in North America is \$5.00 plus \$2.00 US shipping (rest of the world slightly more). They have already started shipping to those who order it. It will be updated whenever necessary to keep up with the product scene.

*****SPECIAL NOTE ON SIR CLIVE'S CASTLE BBS*****

Per Mike Felerski the BBS is down for the summer. I do urge some of you users to contact Dave Solly to encourage him to put it back up this fall; it is too good of a board to lose.

DAYTON COMPUTERFEST- SINCLAIR SUB SHOW

ISTUG has paid for a booth at COMPUTERFEST 91, so we are looking forward to seeing you there. UPDATE MAGAZINE and MECHANICAL AFFINITY have paid for two tables at the show. QUANTA will be represented by Paul Holmgren, the North American Librarian. The SMUG User Group from Milwaukee will be there, CATS from the D. C. area, CATUG, and Gary Ganger says he has also had word from West Virginia and Ottawa, Canada. Steve Spaulding of Sting Graphics tells me that he will be there along with a friend who has been upgrading the operating system of the Aerco Disk Interface. Paul Holmgren tells me that Eric Johnson hopes to be there with a table to sell parts and reconditioned units of Timex-Sinclair Computers. John Hammer (who repairs Timex computers) hopes to be there with Eric.

This is the largest computer show in the Midwest, with thousands of attendees, but the Sinclair and Timex booths should be in the same area. The show will start on Saturday, August 24th at 10 AM and run to 6 PM and, conclude on Sunday, August 25th by running from 10 AM to 5 PM. Tickets will cost you less (\$5.00 rather than \$6.00) by ordering in advance. If we get a good turnout for this show it will probably be done again in 1992, etc. For those who are interested, there will be a banquet on Friday night before the show. Give Gary Ganger of the Dayton user group a call for more information. Call at a reasonable hour, 513-849-1483. See you at the show!



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INDIANA² SINCCLAIR TIMEX USERS GROUP

NEW MODEM ADVENTURES

AS EXPERIENCED BY MIKE FELERSKI

THE first modem I purchased was a TS2050 from Zebra Systems in 1986 and the Zebra BBS was the first Bulletin Board I logged on to. It was quite a feeling to connect and communicate with a computer in New York all the way from Indiana (with a Timex). Oh what humble beginnings.

Since then the so-called Sinclair BBS base has expanded and shrunk. So has the interest in what some circles have called "Modeming". Sinclair modeming is a lost art or is it? The other day I decided to venture out with 2050 in hand and uncover the untold treasures of Sinclair Bulletin Boards...

Price/Performance

The term Price/Performance is often associated with the cost of a computer vs. the speed or power it has. In the area of modeming, the term associates closer with the cost of the phone call (the speed of your modem (baud rate) and the strength of the BBS called.



I mentioned the cost of the call because most Sinclair users live outside the local calling area for a Sinclair BBS. So now you have to consider when to call such as weekends and evenings (i.e. after 11:00 PM) for the best long distance rates.

The baud rate is the speed at which the data travels across the phone lines. Currently two baud rates are available to owners of TS2068s 300 and 1200. For TS1000s only 300 is available and the QL will run up to 9600 baud (from what I have heard). The TS2050 modem for the TS2068 and TS1000 computers operates at 300 baud, but 1200 baud modems can be connected to TS2068s which have RS232 Serial cards installed on them.

Most bulletin boards operate at 300, 1200 and 2400 baud. Remember here that a phone conversation between two people can convey quite a lot of information in ten to twenty minutes but it often takes much longer to transfer information via computer. Most people can read faster than 300 baud. Remember too file transfers (taking a BASIC program data file, SCREEN\$, etc. from the BBS

down to your own computer and/or disk drive) can also take a considerable amount of time.

Finally, let us look at performance. Some BBSs cater to special interests, even within the Sinclair world. If you are interested in graphics, you may want to spend more of your modeming time on a BBS which hosts a large number of Run Length Encoded (RLE) graphics or Sinclair (2068/Spectrum) SCREEN\$ graphics.

Some Bulletin Boards specialize in utility programs, some in Pascal programs and others prefer to cover the latest Sinclair and Modeming news. The most important thing is to investigate as many as possible without busting your long distance phone budget.

Some Bulletin Boards Available

I was truly amazed with the quality of the Sinclair bulletin boards since I last logged in on a BBS over a year ago. Back then the thrust of BBSs was the BBS message base. Here users would leave all different kinds of messages for each other or for all readers regarding a myriad of topics. After a while, the novelty wore off and users decided a voice phone call or letter would work just as well. But today, things are much different...

Dust Off Those Old Modems

On my own, I have decided that February should be Sinclair Modem Month. In doing so, I have dusted off my (TS2050) modem and have investigated three different bulletin boards which cater to Timex/Sinclair users. The boards I will look at in this issue will be:

- o The Grey Matter BBS & RCP/M
- o The CATUG BBS
- o Sir Clive's Castle BBS

The Grey Matter BBS & RCP/M

The Grey Matter BBS is operated by Ed Grey of Ed Grey Enterprises who is a Sinclair hardware and software supporter. It appears that communications and bulletin boards are two of Ed's favorite hobbies. The board allows messages to be left on the board for all and for the Sysop (Systems Operator, who in this case is Ed himself) specifically, private messages may also be left.

Other features include the ability to see a users list, read news bulletins, see what is new in the Upload department, or "Yak with Sysop" (if he is available). One unique feature of The Grey Matter BBS is being able to drop into the board's CP/M operating system to the delight of AERCO users.

Some of the board's strong points are the Ed Grey

ISTUG NEWSLETTER

Enterprises product catalog and order form (both down-loadable), the software and hardware review files and information on non-Sinclair products.

The Grey Matter BBS & RCP/M
P.O. Box #2186
Inglewood, CA 90305
BBS# (213) 971-6260
Settings: 8/N/1

The CATUG BBS

The Chicago Area Timex Users Group bulletin board has changed considerably within the last couple of years. The BBS was formerly run on a DEC PDP/11, but now resides on a DEC VAX. The CATUG BBS appears to operate on a system level. If you wish to view a file you type in:

TYPE Filename.Ext

If you wish to see what files are on the system, you enter:

DIR [optional filename]

And finally, files can be up and down loaded using the following commands:

UPLOAD Filename.Ext
and
DOWNLOAD Filename.Ext

where UPLOAD and DOWNLOAD are small Command programs for the VAX.

At this time, I am not sure if the CATUG BBS is going to expand to a more "Menu-Based" BBS operating system, but until that time, the BBS is a good bet for Timex/Sinclair tid-bits and information.

The CATUG BBS
c/o Bob Swocer
613 Parkside Circle
Streamwood IL 60107-1647
BBS# (708) 576-7140
Settings: 8/N/1

Sir Clive's Castle BBS

Sir Clive's Castle BBS turned up in a recent issue of Update Computer Systems magazine. It is based out of Ottawa, Ontario Canada and is run by two members of the Ottawa-Hull Sinclair users group. What makes Sir Clive's so interesting is that it is running Larry Kenny's MAXCOM MaxBBS software for the TS2066 family.

The BBS has various message bases with help files to guide you around the system. But the board's strongest feature is its file database. There are numerous BASIC as well as Pascal programs available for down loading. There is even a YU-File data file of the Ottawa-Hull TSUG Library Holdings!

MODEM ADVENTURES-2

In volume of information available alone, Sir Clive's comes out ahead. My only concern is the impending phone bill for my access time to this BBS from the States.

I whole heartedly recommended Sir Clive's for anyone interested in Larken and Larken/Pascal programming for the TS2066 and Spectrum computers.

Sir Clive's Castle BBS
1402-1545 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa, ON K1G 3P4
Canada
Attn: David Scolly
BBS# (613) 745-8838
Settings: 8/N/1

What Does This 8/N/1 Stuff Really Mean Anyhow??

Often times when you see a Bulletin Board phone number, it is accompanied by modem setting information such as:

8/N/1 or 7/E/1

These numbers and letters represent the number of data bits per character, the parity and the number of stop bits.

Some intelligent boards can automatically tell what your modem is using when you send the board a couple of Carriage Return (or ENTER) characters, and then adjust to match your settings. But many boards cannot. Therefore you must set your system to the parameters of the BBS you are calling.

I have found that most bulletin boards in the Sinclair world use:

8 Bit Character Data
N No Parity Checking
1 Stop Bit.

If a BBS requires 7/E/1 it wants:

7 Bit Character Data
E Even Parity Checking
1 Stop Bit.

Many times when a user logs onto a new BBS, all they see on their screen is garbage characters. My experience is 95% of the time it is a Bit or Parity problem. So this is the first place to look and make chances. The Stop Bit on the other hand is almost always (99% of the time) 1 rather than 2.

With this in hand, the rest of Sinclair Modeming is a snap with the right communications program package...

...which will be the subject of a future ISTUG Newsletter article.

MY Felenski.

IS "BIG BROTHER" WATCHING YOU,
OR ARE YOU WATCHING HIM?

Back in the early 1980s when I began my adventure with Sinclair computers I realized that one of the most powerful uses for a computer was the Database program. So, when funds became available again, the first software purchase I made was ZX81 UU-FILE.

The day after I received the program (and played about with it), I began my first true database: Time Designs Articles. At the outset it seemed to be fantastic, "Just think, I can look up the name of any article in any issue of Time Designs almost instantly!"

After about the fifth issue, the whole task became laborious, and I started to think that it might be easier to just look the stuff up by hand. But I carried on and five or so years later I am still glad I finished the task. Since that time I have moved over to 90% TS2068/Spectrum programming and usage and more practical "databasing".

```

1 Enter UU-FILE
2 Set record layout
3 Set printer layout
4 Save data file
5 Load a new data file
6 Erase current file

```

ENTER 1-6 FOR REQUIRED OPTION

Although Profile for the TS2068 is considered to be the most powerful database program for the TS2068, I have yet to enter this arena of high-powered databasing. Part of the reason is my personal lack of need for all that power. As a matter of fact, I have found that the simplest databases are the most useful--and the simplest database programs are the easiest to use for such applications. Therefore, this article is here to cultivate "Simple Database Applications" for use with TS2068/Spectrum UU-FILE.

I chose UU-FILE because it is very easy to format for data, it can be converted to disk or wafadrive easily (see November 1988 issue of the ISTUG Newsletter for UU-FILE Disk/Wafadrive conversions or contact CATUG, c/o Bob Swoger, 613 Parkside Circle, Streamwood IL, 60107-1647) and it is "quick and to the point".

One drawback to UU-FILE is printer support for 80 column printers. Even if you set the program up to print to a full-size printer (I use my Larken cartridge and an Aerco parallel printer interface), you are still limited to a UU-FILE print format of 32 columns. What I would like to see is a third party program which will load a UU-FILE data file and allow the user to format and print the UU-FILE data for 80 column+ printers.

But the databases we will discuss here will be of a simple

```
COMMANDS ARE: Enter Alter Inform
Forward Back Reset Order Select
Quit List Print Copy Delete
```

CLARION	HOTELS
COMFORT	INNS
QUALITY	INNS

800-252-7466
800-228-5150

800 DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE NUMBER
800-555-1212

nature and in most cases will not even need printing because they will be "Quick-Lookup" databases.

These Quick-Lookup databases came to mind one day when my wife and I were planning a vacation. We had all of the brochures, all of the maps and all of the routes. Now all we needed were places to stay on the trip. No problem I thought, let's just start calling around to the big Hotel/Motel chains for vacancies--by the way, does anyone have the phone numbers for these places? That is when it hit me: Why not create a mini Hotel/Motel telephone number database?

So I set out with my disk version of UU-FILE and numerous fliers, phone books and lists of reservation phone numbers. Thus, the mini-database was conceived, executed and deployed on my system.

This, however, was just the beginning of my mini-database adventure, and here is where I would like to share with you some of my ideas for VU-FILE

mini-database applications for the home.

SPARE PARTS:

There are all kinds of spare and replacement parts for automobiles from headlights to air filters. And have you ever tried looking up the replacement part number for your specific part in one of those discount store books? Many times the books are out of date, or pages are missing, and all you want is one number which you either forgot or cannot find printed on the original.

COMMANDS ARE: Enter Alter Inform Forward Back Reset Order Select Quit List Print Copy Delete

AUTOMOTIVE REPLACEMENT PARTS CROSS REFERENCE SYSTEM

PART: AIR FILTER

AUTO: LE MANS YEAR: 89

ENG: 1.6L

MANUFACTURER	PART NUMBER
AC DELCO	1137
FRAM/BENDIX	CA6375
K-MART	
NAPA	
NATIONWISE	

This replacement parts database is also useful for electronics, model railroading, all kinds of filters and more. It should include original replacement as well as cross reference part numbers.

AUTOMOTIVE REPAIRS:

Although it seems like I am stuck on automobiles, this mini-database is a classic. Use it to track repairs, additions, registrations, inspections and upkeep data in each vehicle you own. Not only is this helpful for warranty information, but it can help in the sale or trade-in of the auto when you are ready to move on. It is also an excellent tool for tracking oil changes.

WARRANTIES:

Speaking of warranties, all those appliances and electronics in your house could be databased for their warranties and serial numbers. This is not only helpful for you but also your insurance company (and don't forget to include your Sinclair and all of its hardware and software in your file--maybe that should be a separate database).

OP CODES:

Now I know that some of you out there are programming geniuses but I personally write my assembler or machine language programs out by hand to start with. For this reason, I am working on a Z80 assembler

database of OP CODES and examples. OK, so this is not really a mini-database application, but it can start out small with just the basic codes such as LD A,B etc. and work into BIT commands later on (remember, a database does not have to be complete the same day you start it--as a matter of fact, most databases are an ever changing and/or expanding entity).

GAS STATIONS/EXITS:

Since both my wife's and my parents live in other states, there is always a lot of traveling and visiting by either us or them. We also have a lot of out of state friends who visit. Since we tend to take the same routes (with little variation) I decided we needed a mini-database of Interstate exits and their services. Since many people are product loyal (i.e. gas station brands) we thought it would be easier to let the computer keep track of the exits we like (keep in mind we are keeping track of at least 1200 miles of interstate). I know that most of you are thinking that it isn't that hard to keep track of exits--well even so, think of how pleasant an exit list would be for visiting friends or relatives!

ROUNDUP:

Although this article just begins to scratch the surface of the mini-database, I think it is a pretty good start to get you thinking. You could put the Op Code database on a TS1000 (in UU-FILE) and set it next to your main system, and refer to the TS1000 as you are programming.

COMMANDS ARE: Enter Alter Inform Forward Back Reset Order Select Quit List Print Copy Delete

AUTOMOBILE REPAIR/MAINTENANCE

1988 PONTIAC FIERO

SERVICE RECEIVED
OIL CHANGE

PERFORMED BY
PREMIER PONTIAC
CINCINNATI, OH

DATE	COST	MILEAGE
890901	\$17.95	5675
YYMMDD		

WARRANTY:

You could mini-database your software collection's start and length addresses (which is especially helpful for machine code routines) or the start locations and lengths of your video tape collections. The possibilities are almost limitless.

PLEASE TELL US YOUR OWN database ideas and we will publish them in the ISTUG Newsletter -- MUF

Be a NETWORK MANAGER!



*This couple Did it
And So Can YOU!*

*"We used to spend many hours together trying to decide what to do with our lives. Now that we're **Network Managers**, we don't see each other at all."*

Ralph and Alice Burstmode



TAKE THIS SIMPLE APTITUDE TEST!

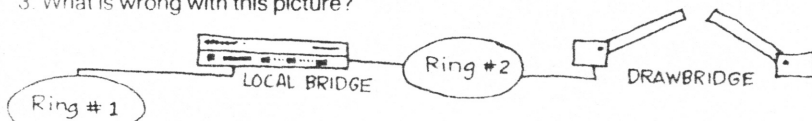
1. Would working in a field characterized by rapidly-changing technology make you paranoid and insecure?

- a. Sometime
- b. Never.
- c. Who wants to know?

2. If your co-workers were squabbling, what would you recommend?

- a. a compromise.
- b. a reassignment.
- c. a duel

3. What is wrong with this picture?



4. A computer sends information over a circuit with a 19.2 kbps throughput capacity at the rate of 19.2kbps to another computer receiving the data at 19.2kbps. What is the rate of information transfer?

- a. Let's bump this over to Accounting.
- b. Say, what was that kbps rate again?
- c. I'll let my staff get back to you on this.

5. You are responsible for having purchased a networking system that within three months proved to be obsolete, unreliable and way over budget. Would you:

- a. Take the entire blame and attempt to rectify the situation.
- b. Recommend legal action based on deceptive selling techniques.
- c. Wear a false nose, moustache and eye-glasses to work every day until the mess blows over.

SCORING

If you answered "a" or "b" to all questions, you are patient and methodical **WE CAN CHANGE THAT!**

If you answered "c" to all questions, you have APTITUDE!



**THESE EXTRAS -
WHEN YOU SIGN UP
FOR OUR HOME
STUDY COURSE!**



- EVERYTHING YOU BUY FROM US IS **YOURS TO KEEP!**
- NO "KNOW-IT-ALL TEACHERS TO DISTRACT YOU!"
- YOUR DIPLOMA HONORED AT MOST MAJOR HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS!

Mr. P. C. Upgrade
Broadband, Wyoming

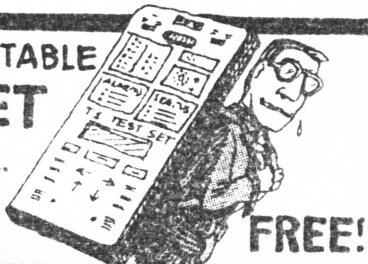
"Now I work in my own big office... sleep there too!"

Ms. T. Span
Eprons, Ohio

"I'm making as much money as my plumber and I'm not getting wet!"

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IS YOURS FREE.
JUST FOR
RESPONDING!**



FREE!

MAIL THIS COUPON! • NO SALESMAN WILL CALL!

National Networking Institute
and Aluminum Siding Company



1609 LAN'S END WAY • MUX, MINN.

RUSH ME MY FREE COPY OF "ARE NETS NUTS OR NOT?"

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

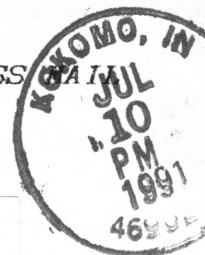
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